

Appl. No. 09/911,149

Amdt. Dated June 1, 2005

Reply to Office Action of March 4, 2005

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the above-identified application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of establishing a secure communication channel for information flow between two or more computers communicating via an interconnected computer network, comprising:

receiving a security association data structure from one or more computers via the interconnected computer network;

storing the received security association data structure in a memory region having a specific memory address value associated therewith; and

assigning the specific memory address value as to a security parameter index value associated with the received security association data structure.

Claim 2 (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising:

transmitting the security parameter index value to the one or more computers from which the security association data structure was received.

Claim 3 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the specific memory address value and the security parameter index value, are both 32 bit values.

Claim 4 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the received security association data structure is stored in a security association database that includes other security association data structures.

Claim 5 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the received security association data structure comprises a network destination address value and a security protocol identifier.

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Claim 6 (currently amended): A method of establishing a secure communication channel for information flow between two or more computers communicating via an interconnected computer network, comprising:

receiving a security association data structure from one or more computers via the interconnected computer network;

storing the received security association data structure in a memory region having a specific memory address value associated therewith;

assigning the specific memory address value as to a security parameter index value associated with the received security association data structure; and

transmitting the security parameter index value to the one or more computers from which the security association data structure was received.

Claim 7 (original): The method of claim 6, wherein the specific memory address value and the security parameter index value, are both 32 bit values.

Claim 8 (original): The method of claim 6, wherein the received security association data structure is stored in a security association database that includes other security association data structures.

Claims 9-35 (canceled).

Claim 36 (original): A computer-readable medium containing computer executable code for instructing a computer to establish a secure communication channel for information flow between one or more other computers communicating via an interconnected computer network, the instructions comprising:

receiving a security association data structure from one or more computers via the interconnected computer network;

storing the received security association data structure in a memory region having a specific memory address value associated therewith; and

Appl. No. 09/911,149

Amdt. Dated June 1, 2005

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assigning the specific memory address value as to a security parameter index value associated with the received security association data structure.

Claim 37 (canceled).